



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District asks employers to expand remote work options *Employers encouraged to sign Cut the Commute Pledge*

SAN FRANCISCO – At a press conference today, the Bay Area Air District asked Bay Area employers to sign the *Cut the Commute Pledge* to extend remote work options for employees and maintain our air quality progress even after shelter-in-place orders are eased.

The clean air we have experienced since the Bay Area was ordered to shelter in place on March 16 is due, in part, to the accompanying dramatic reduction in vehicle traffic on our roads. Transportation is the #1 source of air pollution in the region and taking cars off the road significantly improves the quality of our air. Allowing employees to work from home can be a big part of the solution to keeping our skies blue.

“The pandemic has shown us that remote work is possible and productive for many while offering an alternative to traffic gridlock and mega commutes - leading to open roads, healthier air and happier employees,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We are asking Bay Area employers to sign our Cut the Commute pledge and offer remote work options to their employees moving forward. Now is the time to seize this opportunity to sustain good air quality while improving our quality of life in the Bay Area.”

Teleworking benefits include:

- Reduced traffic congestion
- Cost savings for employers and employees
- Improved employee recruitment and retention
- Improved work-life balance
- Increased ability to effectively continue business as a part of a disaster recovery or emergency plan

By signing the pledge at www.sparetheair.org, employers vow to extend remote work options by at least 25 percent for employees whose work requirements allow for that flexibility. Employers also commit to include a formalized remote work policy as a component of their employee benefits package to improve air quality and quality of life for all Bay Area residents.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](http://www.bayareaairquality.org) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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